

SUGGESTED 25¢ DONATION

THE WESTWORD

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CALGARY INTERGROUP OF AA

TO RECEIVE ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE WESTWORD PLEASE EMAIL westwordeditor@gmail.com

**Calgary
Alcoholics Anonymous
Central Service Office**

#2, 4015 – 1 Street S.E.
Calgary, AB, T2G 4X7

Office hours

Mon–Fri, 8:30am–5:00pm
Closed for lunch 1-2pm
Saturday, 9:00am–1:00pm
Closed holiday weekends

**Heritage Day weekend
closures on:**

**Saturday, August 5th
Monday, August 7th**

Telephone: (403) 777-1212
Answering service is 7x24

Email:
centraloffice@telus.net

See www.calgaryaa.org for
up-to-date Information,
meetings and events
schedule.

Please email or call us for any
changes to the meeting schedule or
to post in the online calendar of
events.

**Check out the AA bookstore
at Central Office for:**
AA & Grapevine books,
pamphlets, committee
information, CD's and DVD's,
chips/medallions, etc.

Intergroup summer BBQ

50/50!

Freezies!



Kids party bags!

BBQ & potluck!

Sat August 12th 2017 11am-2.30pm

**Hotdogs & burgers provided based on 7th
Tradition. Potluck salads, sides and
dessert**

EDWORTHY PARK PICNIC SITE 9



For further information contact Sarah (647)
990-1544 or cgigevents@gmail.com

STAMPEDE BREAKFAST

Calgary Central Service Office Invites Friends and Neighbors

Saturday JULY 15, 2017
8:30AM - 11:30AM
Central Service Office
4015 1 Street SE
 (Near 39th Ave SE LRT Station)
 Cost: 7th Tradition

SPONSOR APPROVED

Right From
The Horse's
Mouth.

BREAKFAST MENU
 Pancakes
 Sausages
 Scrambled Eggs
 Hash Browns
 Coffee & M

♦ Live Music - The Common Welfare Band and Open Mic
 ♦ Toe Tappin' ♦ Knee Slappin' ♦ Finger Snappin'
 ♦ Great Food! ♦ Great Fellowship! ♦ Great Times!

GROUP DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO CENTRAL OFFICE
 PLEASE ANNOUNCE AT YOUR MEETINGS
 For More Info: (403) 777-1212

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.

Intergroup Contacts:

Intergroup Alternate Chair	cgigalterchair@gmail.com	Intergroup Chairperson	cgigchair@gmail.com
Intergroup Archives Chair	cgigarchives@gmail.com	Telephone Monitoring Chair	cgigtelmonitorchair@gmail.com
Public Information Chair	pichair.calgary@gmail.com	12 Step Chair List	cgig12steplist@gmail.com
Westword Editor	westwordeditor@gmail.com	Intergroup Secretary	cgigsecretary@gmail.com
Calgary Central Office	centraloffice@telus.net	Intergroup Treasurer	cgigtreasurer@gmail.com
Banff Roundup Chair	info@banffroundup.com	Intergroup Special Events	cgigevents@gmail.com
Sunday Morning Breakfast Chair	cgigbrkfst@gmail.com		

Meeting Changes**NEW MEETINGS**

Cochrane Ladies, Thursdays 7:30 pm, closed, Literature Study, St. Andrew's United Church, northwest door upstairs, 128 – 1 St. E, Cochrane AB (Apr/17)

Friday Night Fellowship Group, Fridays at 8:00 PM, closed, step/discussion, All Saints Traditional Anglican Church, Renfrew, 905 Renfrew Dr. NE (Jun/17)

Garnet Block, 1609 Centre St. NW, is adding a new Night Owl meeting, Saturdays at 10:00 PM, open, discussion (Jun/17)

Garnet Block, 1609 Centre St. NW, is adding a new meeting: Sundays, 3:00 PM, Step Discussion, starting June 4 (Jun/17)

Resentment Resolve Group, Thursdays 7:30 pm, open, Step/Traditions/Topic Meeting, Eastside Victory Outreach, back door, 1840 – 38 St. SE, Calgary, AB (Apr/17)

Tommy's Place Group, Mondays 8:00 pm, closed men's Literature Study, St. John's Lutheran Church, main entrance, library, 204 – 6A St. NE, Calgary, AB (Apr/17)

MEETING CHANGES:

Back Again Group, Out-of-town, Trochu, Wednesdays has changed from 7:30 to 7:00 pm (Apr/17)

Desperation Group, Fridays 8:00 pm, northwest, will be moving to the Highwood Lutheran Church, 419 Northmount Dr. NW as of May 26. All else the same. (May/17)

Grupo Nuevo Horizonte (Spanish), northeast, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 7 PM & Saturdays at 5 PM has moved to Bay 6, 3850 – 19 St. NE, Calgary, AB (Jul/17)

Irricana Recovery Group Beginning on May 1, 2017, the Friday 8:00 pm meeting will move to Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. It will be the same location (United Church 16 km east of Airdrie on Hwy 567). There is no change to their Sunday meeting. (May/17)

Monday Morning Group, southeast 10:00 am, will be moving to St. Luke's Anglican Church, 2951 – 26 Ave. SE (back door) from Eastside Victory Outreach Centre. (May/17)

Rockyford Group, out-of-town, Tuesdays, Rockyford AB, meets at 7:00 pm, not 8:00 pm (Apr/17)

Saturday Morning Bridge, Saturdays northeast, 10:00 AM, is moving to All Saints Traditional Anglican Church, Renfrew, 905 Renfrew Dr. NE, same time and format (Jun/17)

Tommy's Place Men's Group, Mondays northeast (Lynda-page 6), has moved to the All Saints Traditional Anglican Church, Renfrew, back door, 905 Renfrew Dr. NE. All else the same. (Jun/17)

Tsuu T'ina meeting, Spirit Healing Lodge, Old Agency Road, Tsuu T'ina Nation is changing from Tuesdays at 7:30 PM to Thursdays at noon, same location (Jun/17)

Weekend Serenity Group, Saturdays & Sundays southeast, will move to the Eastside Victory Outreach, back door, 1840 – 38 St. SE. Both meetings are still at 1 pm. (Apr/17)

MEETING CANCELLATIONS:

Action Group, Wednesdays southwest, is closing; last meeting May 31 (May/17)

Recovery Group, southwest, has cancelled their Saturday 8:00 pm meeting. Except the last Saturday of each month, the birthday meeting, which will still happen (Apr/17)

Thursday Night Bridge, Thursdays, northeast is cancelled - last meeting was June 30 (Jun/17)

July 8th Daily Reflections - "AN EVER-GROWING FREEDOM"

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p.76

When I finally asked God to remove those things blocking me from Him and the sunlight of the Spirit, I embarked on a journey more glorious than I ever imagined. I experienced a freedom from those characteristics that had me wrapped up in myself. Because of this humbling Step, I feel clean.

I am especially aware of this Step because I'm now able to be useful to God and to my fellows. I know that He has granted me strength to do His bidding and has prepared me for anyone, and anything, that comes my way today. I am truly in His hands, and I give thanks for the joy that I can be useful today.

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



All birthdays are entered as received. Birthdays are posted for the month past, and the current month of issue.

Deadline for submissions is the last Thursday of the month. Please submit to westwordeditor@gmail.com

June			July		
Awakenings Group	Glenmore Group	New Beginnings	Awakenings Group	McKenzie Towne	
Lynda B 17 years	Doug M 11 years	Gail C 19 years	Garry B 3 years	Jodi G 1 year	
Brenda R 21 years	Mark M 23 years	Clarence 22 years	Amanda H 23 years	Steve H 1 year	
Gerry A 38 years	Tom R 25 years	Bernie P 28 years	Brett G 29 years	Josh M 3 years	
Back Froup Hell	Leslee 29 years	Bob R 32 years	Martin W 31 years	Lisa R 5 years	
Brad H 3 years	Harvest Hills	Recovery Group	Back From Hell	Craig M 5 years	
Nikki G 4 years	Big Book	Ayan E 1 year	Ray F 42 years	Nancy E 6 years	
Angela C 8 years	Stuart C 1 year	Gale L 1 year	Back to the Book	Joe D 12 years	
Deer Ridge Group	Shalee S 2 years	Donna G 2 years	Mary W 1 year	Gary R 12 years	
Paul C 5 years	Sandra B 4 years	James S 4 years	Ray F 42 years	Joanne G 29 years	
Nancy P 13 years	Bo H 6 years	Randy TR 6 years	BYOC Langdon	Midnapore Group	
Tammy G 25 years	Kincora Group	Bernie G 21 years	Kelly R 11 years	Gord P 1 year	
Denny B 27 years	Vanessa R 1 year	South View	Don C 32 years	Sarah S 8 years	
Margot C 34 years	David M 28 years	By the Book	Deer Ridge Group	Char V 10 years	
Double H Group	MAAT Group	Carol 3 years	Holly 1 year	Pat M 34 years	
Dwayne S 45 years	James L 2 years	Sylvia 28 years	Luke 1 year	Out to Lunch Bunch	
Edgemont Group	Grant C 32 years	Stampedeers Group	Jack W 11 years	Angie 1 year	
Janice K 2 years	Iva P 33 years	Bob Y 32 years	Edgemont Group	Recovery Group	
Stan A 12 years	Marlborough Park	Steps Stories	Garrick 1 year	Claude D 1 year	
Lyanda B 17 years	Allan W 8 years	& Beyond	Ryan 1 year	Pam C 1 year	
Brent M 19 years	Emillian D 30 years	Daniel B 1 year	Stacey 1 year	Leonard C 2 years	
Joanne D 30 years	Midnapore Group	The Link Group	Michael 2 years	Brad K 9 years	
Garnet Block	Wayne G 1 year	Linda VL 3 years	Ken 7 years	Steps Stories	
Joel T 10 years	Tyler C 2 years	Tuesday Morning	Chad 9 years	& Beyond	
Joy 13 years	Dan C 3 years	Ladies	Joanne 13 years	Vanessa S 4 years	
Monty 29 years	Kristen B 5 years	Gail P 13 years	Linda 24 years	Walking Eagle	
Getting There Group	James C 6 years	Susan M 30 years	Harvest Hills	Renee S 2 years	
Shane C 9 years	Mike S 7 years	Walking Eagle	Big Book	Pearl W 4 years	
Nick M 12 years	Bill L 33 years	Leanne F 11 years	Chris L 5 years	Wednesday Morning	
Gerry A 38 years	New Beginnings	Wednesday Morning	Andrew S 7 years	Eye Opener	
Glenmore Group	Bobby C 1 year	Eye Opener	Bob H 27 years	Jackie S 2 years	
Chireen 1 year	Jenn S 1 year	Dwayne S 45 years	Kincora Group	Whitesheep Group	
Soren 1 year	Julia 1 year	Whitesheep Group	Brian C 3 years	Craig G 4 years	
Erica 3 years	Stian R 4 years	Mitchell B 3 years	Larry L 4 years	Jeff L 20 years	
Kristen F 3 years	Andrew M 5 years	A J S 9 years	MAAT Group	Al B 30 years	
Paul C 5 years	Cornelia 16 years	David G 25 years	Audrey C 25 years	Ken R 31 years	
Peter H 10 years	Anne H 19 years				

LIST OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	More Info
July 1 – 3 (Saturday – Monday) Pinedale Hall, Edson, AB	<u>Canada Day Celebration</u>	Begins July 1 at 11:30am, Hall open at 9:00am for setup, family and pet friendly, tenting available, free event, accepting donations at www.wacypaaxxi.weebly.com
July 7-9 (Friday – Sunday) Nevis Community Hall	<u>Stettler AA's 38th Annual Roundup</u>	Free camping., no showers or hookups. Just Banquet and speaker - \$20, children under 12 - \$10, Friday night only - \$5, Sunday morning only - \$5. Follow the signs from Hwy 12 at Nevis. For more info, contact Central Office at 403-777-1212.
July 14-16 (Friday – Sunday) Next to the small hamlet of Cayley, AB	<u>Keeping the Spirit Alive Campout (Cayley Campout)</u>	\$25 per Campsite, setup begins at 4pm Friday. The whole campground is ours. Email to kr462008@gmail.com for more information or call Archie at 587-999-9214 or Karen 587-777-6481 (text only).
July 15, 2017 (Saturday) Central Service Office, 4015 – 1 st St. SE, Calgary, AB	<u>Calgary Central Service Office Stampede Breakfast</u>	8:30am – 11:30am, 7th Tradition observed, pancake breakfast with all the fixings, live music. For more info, contact Central Office at 403-777-1212.
July 15, 2017 (Saturday) 1609 Centre Street NW, Calgary, AB	<u>Stampede Alcahthon</u>	Doors open from 10am to 10pm, Potluck supper from 4:00pm-5:30pm. Meetings all day. Join us for recovery and snacks through the day.
July 21-23 (Friday – Sunday) Island Lake Provincial Recreation Area (15 km west of Crowsnest Pass – On Hwy 3)	<u>Crowsnest Pass 30th Annual Campout</u>	Registration and payment for all RV's, trailers and tents must be done on arrival at entrance to campground. Contact Amanda at 1-587-590-4514, Barry at 403-563-5473 or Hotline at 403-753-1212 for more info about the weekend. For campground info, go to website at rockymountaincamping.ca . Saturday potluck supper, Sunday morning pancake breakfast.
July 21-23 (Friday – Sunday) Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park 8 mi. North of Consort on Hwy 41, then 1 mi. East	<u>Consort Campout</u>	Registration Friday 6pm, \$20/person, kids 12 and under free. If not a camper: call Prairie Moon Inn & Suites at 403-577-2770, or Sunrise Motel at 403-577-3847. For more info, call Central Office at 403-777-1212.
August 11-13 (Friday – Sunday) Granview Recreational Park 10 miles south of Claresholm on Hwy 2 at Granum	<u>Claresholm Campout</u>	Friday registration and potluck 5:30-8pm, cost \$20/person plus campground fees. Registration 5:30pm – 8:00pm Friday. For more info, contact Devon V at 403-625-0029. Saturday supper provided.
August 11-13 (Friday – Sunday) 10 km NE of Airdrie, AB Take Hwy 2 north to Veterans Blvd and go east on 567, approx 2 km to RR 291 and go north (Left) .8 kms. Turn right at Spruce trees. East on gravel road. Signs for parking.	<u>District 86 12th Annual Pig Roast</u>	Friday – Evening fire and fellowship Saturday – Fellowship and evening Barbeque (succulent roast pork, corn and potluck) Sunday Morning – Pancake Breakfast Onsite camping available, no hookups, campfire meetings, children welcome, dogs are absolutely not allowed. Contact Colin T at 403-473-3005 for more information.
August 12 (Saturday) Edworthy Park Picnic Site 9 Calgary, AB	<u>Intergroup Summer Barbeque</u>	11am – 2:30pm, hotdogs and burgers provided, please bring salads, sides and desserts. 7 th Tradition observed. Kids party bags, freezies, 50/50.
August 19 (Saturday) Trochu Lions Camp Ground Trochu, AB	<u>Trochu Unity Day and BBQ</u>	Registration at 11am, potluck lunch at 11:30am, \$20 registration includes BBQ dinner at 5pm.
August 25 -27 (Friday – Sunday) Writing on Stone Provincial Park 41 Km East of Milk River, Alberta Group Area "A", West side of campground	<u>International Corn Roast</u>	Camp spots in group area \$25/night for RV's or tents, first come first serve, camp sites restricted in size. Weekend begins 6:30pm Friday night. 7 th Tradition observed.
August 25-27 (Friday – Sunday) Antler Hill Community Hall just NE of Innisfail, Alberta	<u>3rd Annual Innisfail Campout/Roundup</u>	\$20 covers supper and everything else. For more info contact Tom at 403-227-6717 or Don at 587-877-4692, or email innisfailroundup@gmail.com , Campers welcome to set up from 1pm Friday. Registration 6-8pm. No fires allowed at individual camp spots.
September 2 (Saturday) Pembroke Community Hall, 6100 – 8 Ave SE, Calgary, AB	<u>Steps Stories & Beyond 1 Day Roundup</u>	More info to follow.

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Service Opportunities

Upcoming CGSC Service Commitments

Treatment Facility	AA Group - July	AA Group - Aug
Renfrew Tuesday	NW Calgary	Out to Lunch Bunch
Renfrew Wednesday (Bridging the Gap)	Steps, Stories & Beyond	Midnapore
Renfrew Thursday	McKenzie Towne	New Beginnings
Renfrew Sunday	MAAT	Marlborough Park
Sunrise	Ogden	Midnapore
Alpha House	Out to Lunch Bunch	Shipwreck at Sunset
Dream Centre	Midnapore	Ogden

Upcoming Intergroup Service Commitments

Sunday Breakfast at Ramada **served till 9:30**	AA Group
July 2	Ogden
July 9	Inglewood
July 16	Shipwreck at Sunset
July 23	Rule 62
July 30	Garnet
August 6	Primary Purpose
August 13	Steps, Stories & Beyond
August 20	Southview By the Book
August 27	Unity

Telephone Monitoring Dates	AA Group
June 26 - July 2	SMOG
July 3 - 9	Shipwreck
July 10 - 16	Ogden
July 17 - 23	Daily Reflections
July 24 - 30	Primary Purpose
July 31 - Aug 6	
August 7 - 13	Southview By the Book
August 14 - 20	Ogden
August 21 - 27	
Aug 28 - Sept 3	

Calls for Service

People are needed in Calgary for the 12-Step call list. Overnight monitors and multi-language monitors are especially needed. Suggested requirement is 1 year of sobriety. For more information, please email Nate at cqig12steplist@gmail.com.

“Bridging the Gap” is a temporary contact program for the newcomer coming out of a treatment facility and into Alcoholics Anonymous. Volunteers are needed. Please email for more information to cgsbctg@gmail.com

The July 2017 Issue of GRAPEVINE is Coming!

One of the most important and fulfilling service positions an AA member can do is carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous into prisons. Many institutions have meetings inside, but many do not. We get letters all the time from prisoners in need, thanking Grapevine because often it's the only sober lifeline they have. This month's special section features stories of hope from members inside and outside the walls.

[View the Table of Contents](#)

In the story "Living Proof," a man from Atlanta descends into a life of liquor and jails and finds AA and sobriety in prison. A member from Illinois writes about the wonderful journey he's had corresponding with an incarcerated man in the story "Dear Manuel." Through patience and persistence, a prison group shows how they go to "any lengths" to stay sober and keep carrying the message in "21 Men." A woman from Canada expresses joy about bringing love, hope and yes, milk, into a prison in Texas in "Tall Glass of Love." And a prisoner in Oregon lucks out and falls in with a group of women sponsoring each other and doing the Steps in "100 Days to Go."

These stories and more in the July Issue of the Grapevine.

[To view the Table of Contents, click here.](#)

Big Book Studies

"Mondays At Sheldon Chumir Centre"

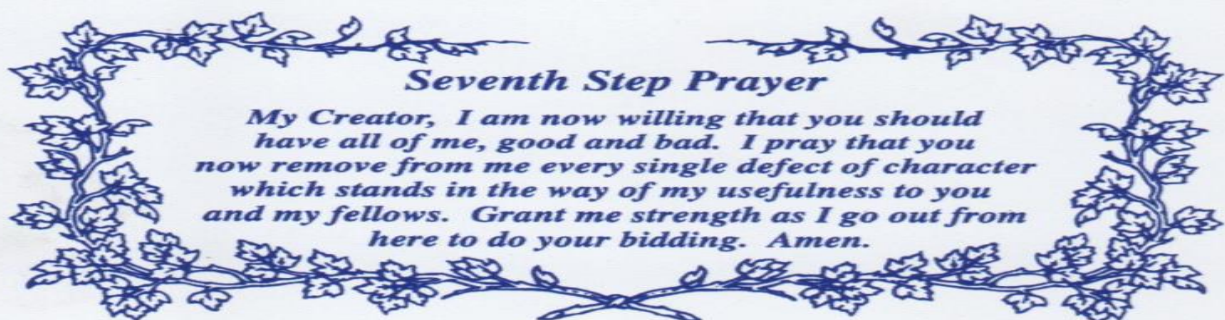
There is a weekly Big Book study currently running at Sheldon Chumir Centre, 1213 - 4 Street SW on Monday nights 7:00pm – 9:00pm on the 3rd floor in room 3122.

"Joe and Charlie BB Study At ODAT"

There will be a new weekly Back-to-Basics Big Book study beginning June 5th on Mondays 7:30pm at ODAT, 1840 38 St SE, Calgary in the Eastside Victory Outreach Centre (upstairs room). Please bring a Big Book, Pen, Highlighter, & notebook or writing pad. For more information, directions, etc., please email odatmeeting@gmail.com.

"Big Book Comes Alive"

There is a weekly Big Book study running at New Brighton Community Centre, 2 New Brighton Drive SE, Calgary. Meeting runs on Sundays from 6:00pm – 7:15pm.



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CROWSNEST PASS

30TH ANNUAL CAMPOUT

JULY 21, 22, 23, 2017

We Believe That's Something to CROW about

"I CAN'T TOGETHER WE CAN"

ISLAND LAKE PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREA



(Rockymountaincamping.ca)

Registration and payment for all RV's, trailers and tents available at entrance of campground must be done upon arrival!

A.A & Alanon Speakers

Campfire meeting, fellowship

7th Tradition, 50/50 draw, sobriety countdown

Saturday pot luck supper

Sunday pancake breakfast

Contact information:

Amanda: 1-587-590-4514

Barry: 403-563-5473

Hotline: 403-753-1212

Alcoholics Anonymous

29th Annual
**Consort
Campout****July 21, 22 & 23, 2017****Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park**

(8 miles north of Consort on Highway 41 & 1 mile east.)

Friday, July 21st:6:00 p.m. - Registration & Wiener Roast
8:30 p.m. - Open AA Meeting**Saturday, July 22nd:**10:30 a.m. - Open AA Meeting - Call Up
3:00 p.m. - Al-Anon Speaker Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Potluck Supper
8:00 p.m. - AA Speaker Meeting - Lorna U., Sunset House, AB.
Dusk - Campfire Meeting**Sunday, July 23rd:**8:30 - 10:00 a.m. - Breakfast
10:30 a.m. - One for the Road MeetingRegistration Fee: \$20.00 per person
12 & Under Free
Camping: Provincial park fees in effect**Not a camper?**Prairie Moon Inn & Suites: 403-577-2770
Sunrise Motel: 403-577-3847For more information please call:
Calgary Central Office 403-777-1212District 86
12th Annual Pig Roast**August 11, 12 and 13, 2017**
(2nd week end of August)***7th Tradition***Friday- Evening-Fire and FellowshipSaturday- Fellowship and Evening BarbequeSunday Morning- Pancake Breakfast**SATURDAY NIGHT BARBEQUE**
SUCCELUENT ROAST PORK, CORN AND POTLUCK

- On Site Camping available (Fri & Sat Nights)
- -No Hook ups
- Children welcome
- Horsehoes and other fun events
- Campfire meetings
- **Dogs are absolutely not allowed.**

On Saturday there will be both AA and Al-Anon Speakers
To Be Announced**Watch for Signs**

Directions: Same as previous years.
Hwy 2 North to Veterans Blvd and go East on 567.
Approx. 2kms to RR 291 and go north (left) 8 kms. Turn right at Spruce trees.
East on Gravel road. Signs for parking.

Contact Info: Colin T at 403-473-3005

**3RD Annual Innisfail
Campout/Roundup***"Keep it simple"*AA and Al Anon cooperating together**AUGUST 25, 26 & 27 2017****Antler Hill Community Hall (map on back)****\$20.00 covers supper, and everything else too!**

Friday August 25: 1pm- on -- Campers welcome to set up
6pm-8pm -- Registration and hot dog roast
8:30pm -- Campfire meeting

Saturday August 26: 8am-10am -- Western pancake breakfast
10:30am -- Call up meeting
3pm -- Al-anon / AA Skit
3:30pm -- Al-anon speakers

****NEW**** 5:30pm -- ****BEEF Supplied** Supper**
Please Bring Salad or Dessert
7:30pm -- AA speaker
9pm -- Campfire meeting

Sunday August 27: 8am-10am -- Western pancake breakfast
10am -- Wrap up meeting

more info, contact Tom 403-227-6717 or Don 587-877-4692
or email: innisfailroundup@gmail.com

(Sorry no fires at individual camping spots)

Step 7 & Tradition 7

Step 7 – Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

SINCE this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it can mean to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.'s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven't much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it, they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven't even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life...

The chief activator of our defects has been self-centered fear—primarily fear that we would lose something we already possessed or would fail to get something we demanded. Living upon a basis of unsatisfied demands, we were in a state of continual disturbance and frustration. Therefore, no peace was to be had unless we could find a means of reducing these demands. The difference between a demand and a simple request is plain to anyone.

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.70, 76.

Tradition 7 – Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

SELF-SUPPORTING alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that's what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can't cure. Always, we've had our hands out. Time out of mind we've been dependent upon somebody, usually moneywise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it's going to pay its bills, that's really news.

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now—sober—paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because it had to.

There was another reason for our collective poverty. It was soon apparent that while alcoholics would spend lavishly on Twelfth Step cases, they had a terrific aversion to dropping money into a meeting-place hat for group purposes. We were astounded to find that we were as tight as the bark on a tree. So A.A., the movement, started and stayed broke, while its individual members waxed prosperous...

Despite these misgivings, we had to recognize the fact that A.A. had to function. Meeting places cost something. To save whole areas from turmoil, small offices had to be set up, telephones installed, and a few full-time secretaries hired. Over many protests, these things were accomplished. We saw that if they weren't, the man coming in the door couldn't get a break. These simple services would require small sums of money which we could and would pay ourselves. At last the pendulum stopped swinging and pointed straight at Tradition Seven as it reads today.

From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.160-162.